GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1305
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2014
UNDERWEIGHT STUNTED CHILDREN
Chautala Shri Dushyant;Sampath Shri Anirudhan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranks high in the world in terms of number of underweight and stunted children;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out the percentage of underweight/stunted children in the country;

(c) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise;

(d) the details of the schemes/ programmes being implemented by the Government to overcome the aforesaid problems and the funds allocated/ released/ utilized along with the achievements made thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme and State/UTwise; and

(e) the further steps being taken by the Government to eradicate the problems of underweight and stunted children in the country

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (c): Yes.

As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) -3 conducted in 2005-06, 42.5% children under five are underweight and 48% are stunted. The State/UT wise percentage of underweight and stunted children is at annexure 1.

(d). Under Reproductive and child health programme of National Health Mission, various interventions are implemented to improve the health of mother and children which has implication on nutritional status of children. The specific health interventions by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to address the problems are as follows :

Promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding practices that include early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding till 6 months of age during the Village Health and Nutrition Days and household visits for counselling by ASHAs.

Treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition at special units called the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs). Presently 872 such centres are functional all over the country.

Specific program to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron & Folic Acid. Vitamin A supplementation is provided for children till the age of 5 years. Under the recently launched National Iron Plus Initiative, bi-weekly Iron & Folic Acid supplementation is provided to children 6 to 60 months.

Management of under-nutrition and common neonatal and childhood illnesses at community and facility level by training service providers in IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) training.

Supplementing iodine through National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme The state/UT-wise fund allocation under RCH programme is at annexure 2. The following steps are being taken by Ministry of Women and Child Development to address the problem of malnutrition in the country:

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a centrally sponsored flagship scheme of the Government of India implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations. One of the major objectives of the Scheme is to improve the nutritional and health status of pre-school children in the age-group of 0-6 years through a package of six services comprising
(i) supplementary nutrition
(ii) immunization,
(iii) health check-up,
(iv) referral services,
(v) pre-school non-formal education and
(vi) nutrition and health education.

Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY), Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) is a centrally sponsored scheme for pregnant and lactating (P & L) women to improve their health & nutrition status, and thereby improve the birth outcome and health and nutrition

status of the children.

(e): In addition to the existing programmes, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has recently launched 'National Iron Plus Initiative' as an effective strategy for supplementation and treatment of anaemia in children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women and women of Reproductive age group, in programme mode through life cycle approach.

Two new schemes have been launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development;

(i) Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign against Malnutrition: A nationwide IEC Campaign against malnutrition to create awareness about nutrition challenges, promote home-level feeding practices, etc.

(ii) Multi-sectoral Nutrition Programme, under National Nutrition Mission: To address the Maternal and Child undernutrition in 200 High burden districts, Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Programme has been launched recently. The scheme aims at prevention and reduction in child under-nutrition (underweight prevalence in children under 3 years of age); and reduction in levels of anaemia among young children, adolescent girls and women during the 12th Plan period at a total cost of Rs. 1213.19 crore. The concerned State Governments have been advised to form District Nutrition Councils and prepare action plans for implementation of the scheme within the allocated budget/provisions.